

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0820

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM -- MARCH 18 WEOG MEETING

REF: USUN 801

1. SUMMARY: WEO GROUP MET A.M. MARCH 18 TO LEARN AND DISCUSS RESULTS OF MARCH 17 MEETING OF COMMITTEE BUREAU PLUS WEOG REPRESENTATIVE (PERSSON, SWEDEN) ON METHOD OF WORK. PERSSON REPORTED THAT CHAIRMAN HOVEYDA (IRAN), HAD SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE HAVE GENERAL DEBATE DURING TWO SESSION MARCH 21 AND A.M. SESSION ON MARCH 22, IN WHICH SPEAKERS MIGHT PRESENT GENERAL VIEWS AS WELL AS COMMENT ON HOW COMMITTEE MIGHT PROCEED ON MARCH 23 AND 24, AND THAT MARCH 25 BE RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION OF REPORT ON COMMITTEE'S WORK. HOVEYDA ADVANCED OPINION THAT IN LIGHT OF SHORT TIME REMAINING, COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT FORM SUBCOMMITTEES. NO ONE OBJECTED TO HOVEYDA'S SUGGESTIONS OR PRESENTED ALTERNATIVE WAY OF PROCEEDING. END SUMMARY.

2. WEO GROUP MET A.M. MARCH 18 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE BUREAU PLUS WEO REPRESENTATIVE, PERSSON OF SWEDEN, WHO ATTENDED BECAUSE WEO'S ARE ONLY GROUP NOT YET TO HAVE NOMINATED ONE OF ITS MEMBERS
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TO THE BUREAU (REFTEL).

3. PERSSON SUMMARIZED MEETING AS FOLLOWS: MEETING ATTENDED BY PERSSON, HOVEYDA (IRAN), A HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVE, AND KATEKA (TANZANIA). BARBADOS, WHICH HOLDS A VICE CHAIRMANSHIP, WAS ABSENT. HOVEYDA SUGGESTED THAT TWO MEETINGS MONDAY AND ONE MEETING (A.M.) TUESDAY (MARCH

21 AND 22) BE RESERVED FOR GENERAL DEBATE. DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE, SPEAKERS COULD PRESENT GENERAL VIEWS AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW COMMITTEE MIGHT PROCEED AFTER GENERAL DEBATE. AT TUESDAY NOON, BUREAU MEMBERS WOULD CONSULT ON FURTHER WORK OF COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. HOVEYDA THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE NO MEETING THURSDAY AFTERNOON SO THAT SECRETARIAT COULD DRAW UP REPORT ON WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. FRIDAY WOULD BE RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT. BECAUSE OF LIMITED TIME THAT COMMITTEE HAD AVAILABLE, HOVEYDA SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE NOT FORM SUBCOMMITTEES.

4. PERSSON REPORTED NO OPPOSITION TO HOVEYDA'S SUGGESTIONS. THE HUNGARIAN ASKED KATEKA (TANZANIA) IF HE KNEW HOW AFRICANS AND/OR ARABS DESIRED PROCEED AFTER GENERAL DEBATE. KATEKA SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PROPOSAL. KATEKA DID NOT COMMENT ON HOVEYDA'S SUGGESTION THAT SUBCOMMITTEES NOT BE FORMED.

5. AFTER PERSSON HAD FINISHED HIS REPORT TO WEOG, TURKEY (PANCARCI) SAID THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ARABS INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT FAVOR CREATION OF SUB-COMMITTEES BECAUSE OF LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE.

6. WEO'S EXPRESSED THEIR GENERAL APPROVAL OF HOVEYDA'S PROPOSAL AND THEN DISCUSSED WEO STRATEGY FOR GENERAL DEBATE. MAJOR CONCERN CONTINUES TO BE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONAL SITUATIONS WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER WORK LATER THIS YEAR OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES. CONFIDENTIAL

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WEO'S WOULD TRY TO ACCENT THE POSITIVE THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE TO COMBAT TERRORISM. US INDICATED IT WAS THINKING ALONG LINES OF REFERRING TO DRAFT CONVENTION PROPOSED BY US IN 1973, TO EXISTING CONVENTIONS, TO UNGA MENDATE GIVEN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES AND TO SWEDISH PROPOSAL TO CONCENTRATE ON IDENTIFICATION OF FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. (PROPOSED TEXT UNDER PREPARATION TO BE DATAFAXED IO/HR - CRAWFORD.) UK SUGGESTED THAT SWEDEN PRESENT ITS PROPOSALS (REFTEL) EARLY ON IN THIRD OR FOURTH STATEMENT, TO SET POSITIVE TONE OF WEO APPROACH. PERSSON EMPHASIZED THAT HE REALIZED THAT COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO ACT ON SWEDISH PROPOSALS THIS YEAR. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD WORD PROPOSALS CAREFULLY TO AVOID SUGGESTING THAT COMMITTEE NEEDS TO BE RECONVENED NEXT YEAR TO CONSIDER THEM. (TURKEY INFORMED GROUP THAT HIS IMPRESSION FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH ARABS IS THAT ARABS AND AFRICANS EXPECT LITTLE FROM THIS SESSION OF COMMITTEE BUT INTEND TO PRESS FOR ITS RECONVENING NEXT YEAR.)

7. WEO'S DECIDED NOT TO CIRCULATE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM SINCE IT NOT A PERFECT MODEL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION. HOWEVER, REFERENCES TO IT AS EXAMPLE OF REGIONAL ACTION WILL BE MADE.

8. PERSSON SAID AS YET HE HAD NOT HEARD FROM STOCKHOLM AS TO WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT WEO VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP.
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